

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 113

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory and recognize the accomplishments of the late Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley II on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

WHEREAS, Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley II was born on February 24, 1917, in Birmingham, Alabama, the youngest son of Seay Smith Hendley, Sr., and the former Loula Mae Dixon, the grandson of William Meredith Hendley and the former Sarah Wells, and the great-grandson of Adin S. Hendley and the former Elizabeth J. Gentry, through whom he was related to United States Congressman, Confederate States Congressman, and candidate for Governor of Tennessee Meredith P. Gentry; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley's family heritage is very much in the spirit of the Civil War Sesquicentennial just observed, as four of his great-uncles served in the war, three for the Confederacy and one for the Union; and

WHEREAS, Frank Hendley attended Norwood Grammar School and Phillips High School in Birmingham, Alabama, and completed the eleventh grade in 1933; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1942, Mr. Hendley volunteered to serve in the United States Coast Guard Reserves and was called to active duty in Nashville the following month; and

WHEREAS, he served his country with the utmost valor in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a member of the Amphibious Assault Forces assigned to the USS *Hunter Liggett*; these sea units were issued a commendation on January 11, 1943, by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet; and

WHEREAS, Frank Hendley and his Coast Guard unit would go on to receive several more commendations, as they always lived up to the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus* (Always Ready); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley operated landing craft in invasions from Guadalcanal to Bougainville (Solomon Islands Campaign) and was honorably discharged on October 10, 1945, with the rank of Boatswains Mate 2nd Class; and

WHEREAS, his exceptional record of service to his nation is evinced by his receipt of numerous awards and decorations, including the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Battle Stars, the Combat Action Ribbon, the American Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal with Fleet clasp, and the Coast Guard's Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, while on leave from the U.S. Coast Guard, Frank Hendley married the former Martha Elizabeth Edmondson, and to this blessed union were born five children: Joyce Clarisse Todd, Patricia Ann Kitching, George Meredith Hendley, Ginger Lynne Lanier, and Dan Dixon Hendley; and

WHEREAS, after being discharged from military service, Mr. Hendley returned to work at Gordon Foods Company at its office in Louisville, Kentucky, where he had begun his career with the company in 1937 as a salesman; by the time of his enlistment with the Coast Guard, he was serving as a sales supervisor, and upon his return from the war, he was promoted to the position of regional manager, in which position he organized salesmen in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana from his headquarters in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Frank Hendley left Gordon Foods in 1952 and moved to Ocala, Florida, where he joined a real estate firm in Silver Springs, first working as a salesman and later serving as a partner in Graggs and Hendley Realtors and as a real estate broker; and

WHEREAS, entering politics in 1964, Mr. Hendley sought the office of Marion County Florida Tax Assessor, but was defeated in the primary, and in 1968, after waging a valiant campaign to defend the "homestead exemption," he was defeated after a hard fight in the general election; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1975, Frank Hendley was elected the first national president of The Hendley Family Association, Inc., and led the organization with honor and integrity

through 1977, later receiving the President's Award of Merit for his service; his sons Reverend George M. Hendley and Pastor Dan D. Hendley have since served The Hendley Family Association, Inc., as Chaplains; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley was a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of his community; he was a rancher, real estate broker, salesman, sailor, public servant, and family man, and he always worked diligently to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Francis Marion Hendley passed away on November 15, 1986; since that time, he has been posthumously honored by the legislatures of seven states, and he was posthumously awarded a Certificate of Recognition by U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; and

WHEREAS, February 24, 1995, was commemorated as "Francis Marion Hendley II Remembrance Day" by the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley II, a "friend to all"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley II and commemorate his volunteer spirit as the personification of Andrew Jackson's legacy of "soldier and statesman" on this the 100th anniversary of his birth, thirty years from his passing and forty years since he led The Hendley Family Association, Inc., as its first national president.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Mr. William H. Hendley, National President, The Hendley Family Association, Inc., with this final clause omitted from such copies.